

News Release

December 17, 2009

Contact: Angela Eden, MoDOT public information department in Springfield, 417-895-7600

Ground officially broken for new Taneycomo Bridge



Officials from the cities of Branson and Hollister, Taney County and Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) turned the dirt Thursday afternoon to signal the start of construction on the \$12.2 million Lake Taneycomo Bridge project.

In addition to the second bridge, the project also includes rehabilitating the existing Route 76/Business 65 bridge and building an oval roundabout on the Hollister side.

Much of the work will take place away from traffic, and construction will cause periodic additional congestion.

Traffic will be able to use the existing bridge during construction of the new bridge. Then traffic will be shifted to the new bridge while the existing bridge is closed for rehabilitation.

Contractor crews have already started moving in equipment and could begin tree and brush clearing operations later this month. Actual construction work for the new bridge, which will connect Route 76 on the Hollister side to Branson Landing Boulevard on the Branson side, will begin in mid-January.

The second bridge is expected to be completed by late 2010. After that, rehabilitation and widening of the existing 77-year old bridge begins with completion scheduled for December 31, 2011.

The oval roundabout on the Hollister side, which will be done in late 2011, will replace the current traffic signal and connect the bridges with Route 76/Business 65.

MoDOT funding and money received through a congressional earmark obtain by U.S. Representative Roy Blunt will pay for the \$4.8 million bridge rehabilitation portion of the project. The new bridge and roundabout is being funded by \$7.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.